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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/876,702	06/07/2001	Ramesh Keshavaraj	2178A	1071

7590

07/16/2003

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EXAMINER

SINGH, ARTI R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/876,702

Applicant(s)

KESHAVARAJ, RAMESH

Examiner

Ms. Arti Singh

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1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner has carefully considered the amendments and accompanying remarks filed on 04/08/2003. The terminal Disclaimer paper number 7, dated 05/18/2003-disclaiming application 09/828081 filed on 04/06/2001 has been entered and thus the previously made rejection in paragraph 2 of the previous rejection is now withdrawn. The rejection made under 35 USC 112 § 2 paragraph is also withdrawn in light of the amendment to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 5 & 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada USPN 4,966,389. Takada teaches an inflatable air bag for protection of a vehicle occupant by absorbing the secondary impact of the occupant as he or she is thrown forward by inertia comprises a first fastening member at the gas inflow side, a second fastening member at the impact side and a plurality of inflation-controlling members connected between the fastening members at junctures therewith. At least the portions of the first fastening member forming the junctures with the inflation-controlling members are resilient so that they absorb energy and reduce the impact forces exerted on the inflation-controlling members when they arrest the movement of the impact side of the air bag during inflation (abstract). The fastening member 4A comprises a first fabric sheet 7 and a second fabric sheet 8. The sheets 7 and 8 are the same shape and are bounded by four equally spaced apart straight edges 6a and four

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arcuate edges 6b extending between the ends of the straight edges. An annular member 9 is disposed between the second sheet 8 and the air bag body 3 (FIG. 5). One end of each of the inflation-controlling members 5 is received between the two sheets 7 and 8 at a corresponding projecting area of the fastening member 4A bounded by a straight edge 6 and portions of the adjacent arcuate edges 6b and is stitched in place by stitch lines forming a rectilinear figure and two diagonals (FIG. 4). The sheets 7 and 8 are pieces cut from a fabric woven from a synthetic resin fiber. The warp and weft of the fabric sheets 7 and 8 are oriented to be aligned at 45.degree. angles to mutually perpendicular axes that bisect the respective oppositely located pairs of straight edges 6a. Thus, the fabrics of the sheets 7 and 8 in the regions where they are joined to the inflation-controlling members 5 lie on a bias to the lengthwise directions of the members 5, i.e., the directions of the tensile loads exerted on them when the bag is inflated. The bias of the fabric in such regions imparts resilience to those regions, in that the warp and weft elements can deform to a slightly rhombic shape under load. Therefore, when the high impact tensile loads are exerted on them, the deformation of the bias portions absorbs some of those loads and reduces the loads imposed on the inflation-controlling members. Hence, the possibility of separation of the inflation-controlling members 5 from the fastening members 4A and 4B is reduced. Holes 10 are punched in the fastening member 4A (sheets 7 and 8 and annular member 9) and in the air bag body 3 adjacent the gas inlet opening 6 and receive fasteners (not shown) by which the air bag is attached to the inflator. The fastening member 4A is stitched to the air bag body 3 along circular stitch lines 11. As shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, the fastening member 4B at the impact side of the air bag is annular, having a circular hole 21 at its center, and is positioned concentric to the geometric center of the impact side of the bag. The ends of the inflation-controlling members 5 are aligned radially at equal spacing, and

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they and the fastening member 4B are stitched to the air bag body 3 along circular stitch lines 22a and 22b.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7 & 8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ms. Arti Singh whose telephone number is 703-305-0291. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 703-308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-873-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



ars
July 14, 2003

Ms. Arti Singh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1771